

## Cover Letter

Dear Reviewing Panel,

I hope you are well.

I am thrilled to submit my work entitled 'Looking Backwards for a Way Forwards: Greek Tragedy and its Classification of Mental States' to the *Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology*. Psychological difficulties constitute a fundamental problem for society and affect approximately 1/3 of the population, with prevalence rates continuing to rise. These statistics underline the critical importance of understanding the basis of such mental health difficulties. However, as contemporary psychology engages in the self-aware debate of the formulation and utility of diagnoses and conditions, looking retrospectively to how other societies offered a full exhibition of mental states without the use of such classifications may prove enlightening. This paper discusses the presentation of mental health difficulties in three tragic narratives, Euripides' *Bacchae*, Sophocles' *Oedipus* dramas and Sophocles' *Ajax*.

This article represents a significant contribution to the literature, as it combines an interdisciplinary and literary approach to seek solutions to psychology's ongoing anxieties about the efficacies of diagnoses and terminologies. To the authors' knowledge, this is the first paper to discuss the presentation of mental health difficulties in three Greek tragedies - Euripides' *Bacchae*, Sophocles' *Oedipus* dramas and Sophocles' *Ajax* – as a potentially enlightening model of reduced mental health classification, and therefore represents a significant contribution to the literature.

This article fits well with the scope of your journal and I believe will be well-received and of interest to your readers. This work has the potential to be highly influential and well-cited, and I would be delighted to publish it in your journal. I have been referred to your journal by Liam Myles. Finally, I am happy to confirm that this manuscript is not under consideration or published in any other journal.

I hope that this work will be met with positive feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should there be any questions regarding this work.

Sincerely,

Patrick Guy Browne Johnson

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None.